

# **Iowa Collaboration for Youth Development Council**

**Jessie Parker Building  
510 E. 12<sup>th</sup> Street, Starkweather Room  
Des Moines, Iowa**

**December 11, 2019**

## **Present:**

Steve Michael, Chair, Department of Human Rights, for San Wong  
Jim Hennessey, Child Advocacy Board  
\*Kevin Drahos, Chair, State of Iowa Youth Advisory Council  
Julie Hibben, Iowa Department of Public Health  
Kristi Judkins, Iowa Workforce Development  
Jay Pennington, Iowa Department of Education  
Mary Sheka, Iowa Economic Development  
\*Shanell Wagler, Early Childhood Iowa  
Doug Wolfe, Iowa Department of Human Services  
Dale Woolery, Office of Drug Control Policy

## **Others Present:**

Meg Berta, Div. of Criminal & Juvenile Justice Planning (CJJP)  
Dave Kuker, CJJP  
Reeva Neighbors, CJJP, Coordinator, State of Iowa Youth Advisory Council  
Brienne Potts, CJJP, State of Iowa Youth Advisory Council  
Julie Rinker, CJJP  
Steffani Simbric, Child Advocacy Board  
Claire Yocom, CJJP AmeriCorps, Iowa Youth Congress  
\*Joined by phone

## **I. Introductions and Announcements**

Steve Michael called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m. A quorum was present. Introductions were made.

The following announcements were noted:

- Hibben reported that Jeff Kerber has been hired as Director, Iowa Department of Public Health (DPH).
- Jim Hennessey announced his retirement effective December 26 and introduced Steffani Simbric as his replacement.
- Michael suggested adding Vocational Rehab to this group and asked members to give consideration to the addition.
- Michael provided an overview of the Transfer of Juvenile Services & Funding Work Group. Recommendations include shifting administrative oversight of certain juvenile justice-related funding from DHS to CJJP or State Court Administration. The report with recommendations is due December 15.

## **II. Approval of the Minutes from June 26, 2019 ICYD meeting**

**Mary Sheka moved to approve the minutes from the June 26 meeting, seconded by Dale Woolery. The motion was unanimously approved.**



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foryouthdevelopment**

### **III. State of Iowa Youth Advisory Committee (SIYAC) Update**

Kevin Drahos, SIYAC Chair, reported that members have selected legislative priorities for the year and committees have been formed. Five legislative positions were selected at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter meeting in November:

- Student representation on school boards
- Banning gay conversion therapy
- Statewide broadband access
- Menstrual equity - feminine hygiene products in schools
- Taxation on vaping products

The next meeting will be held February 27 as part of DHR's "Day on the Hill".

Michael noted a press release issued today by Governor Reynolds regarding a public awareness campaign to combat youth vaping. The effort is in conjunction with the Departments of Education and Public Health. He asked how SIYAC could get involved.

Julie Hibben reported that the Tobacco Use Prevention Division in DPH recently announced a program focused on teen vaping and cessation. She offered to contact individuals on the Tobacco Commission who may be willing to assist SIYAC.

Members discussed student representation on school boards. Jay Pennington reported that a student member is seated on the State Board of Education. It is a non-voting position to provide a student perspective. There is a nomination process each year and involvement on the national board as well. The position is selected by the State Board via an application process, other members are governor-appointed.

Jim Hennessey suggested student body elections be held to select student representatives on school boards as a way to increase civic engagement.

### **IV. National Youth in Transition Database (NYTD) – Update**

Michael reviewed a draft of the NYTD survey results for 19 year-olds.

Doug Wolfe reported that the information is used to improve or make system changes. A webinar will be scheduled to review the report findings. He reviewed how foster youth are selected for participation in the survey. The survey includes pregnancy/parenting, graduation, homelessness, employment, and other self-reported data. Access to mental health services was recently added. National minimum standards require a 60% survey completion rate for 19- and 20-year olds, 80% for 17 year-olds. According to a national report, Iowa's data collection rate is better than most states.

### **V. Youth Offender Reentry**

Dave Kuker reviewed reentry efforts that have taken place over the past few years. CJJP was recently awarded a new grant beginning October 1 that will focus on family engagement, reducing recidivism, and expansion to additional group care facilities. A team of state agency



representatives have collaborated on services available from their agencies which has attributed to the success of the effort.

Separately, pre-charge diversion programs are being piloted in Johnson, Linn, and Scott counties. The purpose is to divert low-risk youth away from the juvenile justice system, reduce recidivism and disparity. He noted how criminal records can affect future success with regard to education, housing, military service, and employment. The pre-charge diversion effort requires collaboration by local officials—school districts, law enforcement, juvenile court, school resource officials, county attorneys, public defenders, judges, and youth-serving agencies. A toolkit has been developed for use by Iowa communities. He offered to present the information to other groups.

Woolery noted a similar pilot effort on the adult side, but there has been little interest from certain local officials in those areas. He will contact Kuker for further assistance and information on strategies.

## **VI. ICYD Annual Report**

Michael will be requesting information from members to prepare the annual report, due February 1.

## **VII. Other Business – Agency Updates**

The following updates were reported:

- DPH received a grant from the Centers for Disease Control to address drug overdose deaths including the timely submission of data and the development of prevention strategies.
- Shanell Wagler reported that Iowa was awarded a pre-school development planning grant a year ago and recently applied for a three-year implementation grant. The grant will allow implementation of a strategic plan, needs assessments, and data integration. The focus is on early childhood access and initiatives with multiple partner agencies. If awarded, the grant provides \$10,000,000 per year for three years. An announcement should be made by December 31.
- Hennessey reported that the minor guardianship bill passed. Court staff are working to transfer guardianship cases from probate court to juvenile court. Conservatorship will remain in probate court. Training has been held for court staff.
- Kristi Judkins reported that Iowa Workforce Development has created a new website that provides information on youth development programs and activities.
- Wolfe reported that Kelly Garcia has been appointed as the new DHS Director. Rick Shultz is retiring December 23. Some internal management and oversight changes are anticipated. Aftercare services will extend to age 23 effective January 1.



**VIII. Adjourn – Next meeting – Wednesday, March 25, 2020, 2:00 – 4:00pm.**

The meeting adjourned at 3:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Rinker  
Administrative Secretary  
Div. of Criminal & Juvenile Justice Planning  
Iowa Department of Human Rights

